

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-11 IO-14 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 EURE-00 /213 W

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P R 151607Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2972

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0833

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJ: ENERGY: FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON WASHINGTON

ENERGY CONFERENCE

1. AT AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON ON FEBRUARY 15 AMBASSADOR AND
DCM GLEANED FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND IMPRESSIONS FROM FONMIN
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VAN DER STOEL RE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE:

2. VAN DER STOEL WAS REGRETFUL BUT NOT OVERLY SO THAT JOBERT CHOSE TO BE ODD MAN OUT BUT HE SHARED THE SECRETARY'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD SERVED ITS MAJOR PURPOSE BY DEVELOPING AN AGREED ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROBLEM AND AGREEING ON FOLLOW-UP STEPS TO DEAL WITH IT.

3. VAN DER STOEL SAID THAT WHAT MADE THE CONFERENCE WORK IN THE FACE OF FRENCH INTRANSIGENCE WAS THAT THE US, BRITISH, GERMANS AND DUTCH HAD PULLED TOGETHER. BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO PLAY THE GAME HAD BEEN SOMETHING OF A PLEASANT SURPRISE FOR HIM. HE ACCEPTED SOME SMALL CREDIT FOR THIS SINCE HE HAD WORKED ON DOUGLAS HOME BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, EMPHASIZING THAT THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY COULD NOT AFFORD ANOTHER FAILURE.

4. VAN DER STOEL WAS WARM IN HIS PRAISE OF THE SECRETARY'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE. HE SAID THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION OF THE ISSUES WAS EXCELLENT AND HIS TOUCHES OF IRONY MOST EFFECTIVE. VAN DER STOEL THOUGHT THAT US PREPARATION OF THE CONFERENCE WAS LESS SUCCESSFUL AND HE PARTICULARLY REGRETTED THAT UNDER SECRETARY DONALDSON HAD NOT VISITED FOREIGN CAPITALS. NEVERTHELESS ONCE THE CONFERENCE GOT UNDERWAY VAN DER STOEL FELT THAT IT PROCEEDED VERY WELL.

5. VAN DER STOEL, A REFLECTIVE, DELIBERATE MAN, INDICATED THAT HE WANTED SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO FORMULATE A VIEW ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED WITH NEXT STEPS. HE DID NOT VENTURE AN OPINION ON HOW THE FRENCH WOULD PLAY THEIR HAND BUT HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT MAKE CONCILIATORY MOVES IN ORDER TO REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM THEIR PRESENT ISOLATION.

6. VAN DER STOEL HAD NOT HAD TIME TO ACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH THE SECRETARY'S FEBRUARY 13 PRESS CONFERENCE. AFTER THE DCM HAD FILLED HIM IN ON THE ESSENTIALS HE SAID THAT IT WAS QUITE REASONABLE THAT THE US SHOULD TAKE

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THE INITIATIVE IN CONVENING A MEETING OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THE DCM NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD SAID THAT THE US HAD AN OPEN MIND ON WHO SHOULD SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. IN RESPONSE TO THE DCM'S COMMENT VAN DER STOEL SAID HE WOULD THINK OVER THE QUESTION OF ONE OF THE OTHER ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

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